Export of Agricultural and Plantation Products

517. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the export of agricultural and plantation products during the last three years;

(b) what are the details of steps taken by Government to increase these exports;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase exports of fruits and flowers; and

(d) if so, what are the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The details of exports of agricultural and plantation products are given below:—

Year	Exports (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	5058.69
1991-92	6254.13
1992-93	7269.44

(*Source*: DGCI&S, Calcutta & ISGIEIC, New Delhi).

(b) In the Export Import Policy 1992—97 special attention is being paid to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. The establishment of Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in this sector is specially encouraged. Units engaged in agriculture, floriculture, horticulture, etc. can now avail of the benefits of duty-free imports even if they export only 50% of their production. They can sell the remaining 50% in the domestic market as against the limit of 25% for the non-agricultural sector. The definition of "capital goods" under the Policy has been expanded to include capital goods used in agriculture and allied activities, so that units engaged in this sector can avail of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme for importing their equipment at a concessional rate of duty. Furthermore, certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector, such as edible was for waxing fresh fruits and vegetables, grape guard paper, dipping oil for treatment of grapes etc. have been removed from the negative list of imports so that they can now be freely imported without a licence.

(c) and (d) To promote exports of agricultural products including fresh fruits and vegetables, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a number of steps which include increasing production and productivity, promotion of market development, dissemination of market information amongst exporters, development of infrastructural facilities improvement in packing, improvement in shelf-life etc.

Indo-US Trade Relations

518. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the trend in the trade between India and US during the last three years;

(b) what are the irritants in the trade relation between the two countries; and

(c) what are the details of the efforts being made to improve India's trade relations with US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) India's trade with the United States during the last three years has been as under:

(Value in Rs. crores)

Year	Indian exports to the US	Indian imports from the US	Balance of trade
1990-91	4795.52	5236.98	(−) 441.46
1991-92	7201.69	4919.38	(+)2282.31
1992-93	10106.07	6147.20	(+)3958.87

(b) and (c) In recent years India's main concerns on US trade policies have been (i) Increase of access for Indian textiles; (ii) CVD and anti-dumping proceedings against Indian exports; and (iii) the use of special 301 provisions of US trade legislation.

Trade between the two countries is governed by the provisions of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to which both countries are contracting parties and various GATT Agreements to which both countries are parties. Apart from the Uruguay Round of negotiations, matters of mutual concern are addressed in bilateral consultations. Through the Joint Business Council, representatives of the industries of both countries also periodically exchange views.

Impact of dumping on Indian Industries

519. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey regarding impact of dumping on Indian industries especially chemicals, petrochemicals and steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dumping is causing sickness, closure and unemployment in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to enact anti-dumping laws; and

(e) if so, what is the manner in which the anti-dumping enactment would safeguard the interest of Indian industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (e) The Designated Authority, under the Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as amended in 1982, has received complaints from domestic industry alleging dumping of certain chemicals, petrochemicals and steel items. The Designated Authority has initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning import of PVC Resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bisphenol-A.

Based on the preliminary findings of the Designated Authority, Government imposed an anti-dumping duty until 1st August, 1993 on PVC Resin falling under H. S. Nos. 39041000, 39042102 and 39042109 originating from all sources in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and the USA. The Designated Authority has terminated investigation in to the alleged dumping of Styrene Butadiene Rubber as no injury or threat of injury to the domestic industry was found. The investigation concerning import of Bisphenol-A is in progress.

The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975 was amended in October, 1982 to enable the Government to take measures against dumped imports by levying anti-dumping duties. The Act empowers Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped imports are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before such a duty can be imposed, the Authority designated by the Government has to make a finding on the existence of dumping and injury. The Designated Authority normally initiated an investigation only upon receipt of a written request by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry. The Customs Tariff rules require the Designated Authority to satisfy itself that it has sufficient prima facie evidence of dumping, injury to domestic industry and of a causal link between the dumped imports and the alleged injury before it decides to initiate an investigation.

Slump in Engineering Exports

520. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express (Business Express) New Delhi, dated the 6th June, 1993 under the caption 'Bureaucratic delays caused slump in engineering export-EEPc';

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a shortage of funds to finance the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) for engineering exports which has led to delay in settlement of claims under the Scheme. As on 31-5-1993 claims worth Rs. 236 crores were pending for want of funds. The Government has initiated